

ADDRESS

AT THE CONVOCATION OF THE

University of Toronto,

JUNE 10th, 1890,

BY THE CHANCELLOR,

THE HON. EDWARD BLAKE, LL.D., Q.C., M.P.

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MY first words must be an expression of cordial and grateful thanks to my fellow-graduates for my re-election to the chair, and to my fellow-senators for that last and signal mark of the regard of the University which I now wear. I gladly acknowledge myself to be bound even more closely than before, and by links I have no wish to break—by links of heartfelt gratitude for kindness undeserved—to the maintenance and advancement, so far as in me lies, of the interests and the honor of the University of Toronto.

I begin, as is customary, by a few figures, but by fewer than are customary; and, indeed, I shall omit much I could have wished to say, because I must trespass on your patience by other figures and unusual topics before I close. Our statistical progress has been, if not very rapid, yet on the whole satisfactory. I take the last four years. The results are in the Faculty of Arts:

	'86-7	'87-8	'88-9	'89-90
Matriculants	187	217	220	232
Bachelors	77	85	78	84
Persons examined.....	694	751	784	855

These increases are very largely due to the rapidly widening use of our provision for female university education, and to the practical realization in our highest institution of learning of the results of the old cry, "The Girls in the Grammar Schools." The girls have grown, in matriculants from fifteen to forty-three, in persons examined from twenty-eight to one hundred and eight; and you will see by the class lists that they are taking in some departments, notably in modern languages, excellent places. I hope they will excel in other departments too. I see that yesterday Philippa Fawcett, who comes of good stock on both sides, the daughter of Millicent Garrett and Henry Fawcett, came out at the head of the mathematical tripos in Cambridge, and that two other ladies are amongst the wranglers. What may we not hope for the advancement of learning when we realize fully the benefit of doubling the sources of supply? What may we not hope for the spread of intellectual enjoyment when we accomplish the fuller participation of that half of the race who have hitherto found their way into those pleasant fields, at disadvantage, over fences or by stealth? As an old advocate of the higher education of women, I rejoice in these results; and I earnestly hope that our experiment in co-education, with its obvious theoretical difficulties and its still more obvious practical advantages, may go forward as it has begun, unmarred by checks or drawbacks, and justifying our confidence in the Canadian youth.

I shall not trouble you with figures in Law or Medicine. But I must be allowed to congratulate the Province on the re-establishment of those great faculties. I do not enter into the subject of certain recent attacks on details with which I am not familiar, and for the discussion of which this is not a fitting occasion. Waiving these, I rejoice that the Legislature has recognized the great facts that these professions exist for the public, not the public for the professions; and that it is of the highest general concern that those who are set apart for and entrusted with the duty of caring for the bodies and the estates of the community should be fitted for their task, and should to that end receive all the facilities which the equipment of this great institution, pri-

marily designed for general higher education, enables it to provide in the branches specially useful to the doctor and the lawyer; so that thus, without appreciable added cost, we may help to turn out better doctors and better lawyers than could otherwise be produced. Our great Biological department enables us to do this for the doctors. Our new professorships in those branches of General Jurisprudence and Constitutional Law which are so important to every educated citizen—too few, and most inadequately remunerated as they are—enable us to do this for the lawyers. And I hope for the continued development of the new, which is but a revival of the old idea, under changed conditions and with improved methods.

I hope, too, for a rapid advance in the important department of Political Science, which seems to be so favorably received. Professor Ashley has refused an appointment in Australia with double his emoluments here. He asks for no increase for himself; but he does ask for some assistance, by the appointment of a Fellow, not to shorten his own hours of labor, but to enable him to use them to the best advantage of the University. The bankers of Toronto are recognizing the value and practical importance of the new department in the branch of Economics, and are offering material encouragement towards its development. Here, as on every side, the eternal question of finance obstructs us; we are cramped wherever we turn; but I do trust we may find \$500 or \$600 to meet Professor Ashley's request.

I observe with regret the large and increasing number of men who have wholly or partially failed in pass subjects. I fear this is a growing weakness, not confined to pass men, but extending to honor men in their pass subjects. Excuses have been suggested: the old one of the severity of the examiners; and new ones, to wit, the grippe and the fire. But making all due allowances, I think there is here a weakness to be remedied. It may be partly traceable to the relief properly given some years ago in respect of the then excessive number of examinations, which were reduced from thirteen to five. It was hoped that the coincident assignment of certain of the remaining examinations to the faculty would serve as a sufficient stimulus to the

pass-men to produce systematic attendance and efficient preparation. I fear it has not done so. A strong committee of the Senate is now charged with the question; and it is probable that a solution will be reached, securing regular term work by means of exercises and catechetical tests, the results of which shall count in the examinations. This is the general rule in the States, and even in England. Under different systems it is yet widely held that useful university education must involve in some form exercises by the student and inquiry by the teacher. Here again we are met by the eternal question of finance. The growing number of our classes makes efficient arrangements impossible without further tutorial strength. We must meet the difficulty if we are to maintain our efficiency; and this particularly in certain large departments, where, with great classes, we have almost to begin at the foundation.

I want to touch on one other point. Our hard-working students must beware lest they allow the growing and inevitable tendency towards specialisation to lead to exclusive concentration on their specialty, to the detriment of that general training which is of the greatest practical advantage in life, and of that general learning which makes all the more valuable their special attainments. I cannot impress too strongly on the minds of students whose bent may be towards mathematics, or metaphysics, or natural sciences, the importance of giving a considerable part of their time to languages, and at any rate to that sometimes neglected, but always noble English tongue in which it is our privilege to speak.

No man should quit our halls without a competent acquaintance with our own language, without learning to appreciate, and so to love, its literature, and clearly to express in it his thoughts by tongue and pen. Especially should the art of expository composition be cultivated. What you know is of but little use unless you can communicate, and explain, and enforce your knowledge. Therefore, even should you make less apparent progress in your specialty, your practical advance would still be greater, because

you would know how to use your knowledge. But you will not make less progress ; you will make more. Change of labor is rest ; and your specialty itself will gain, not lose. Beyond all utilitarian advantages is the enormous gain of acquiring, what such studies will surely give, a love of English letters, a love which will grow with use, and will secure to you the cheapest and most satisfying, the highest and most enduring, of earthly pleasures and consolations. So that, whether we look to success or to enjoyment, we find one course chalked out.

I have at hand a letter from a fellow-graduate, an eminent specialist, who writes from his experience, both as a student here, and in later life as an employer of other specialists in his own important work. For himself, he says that while he was here he found he could give two hours a day to French and English, to history and biography, and yet go further in his specialty than when he confined himself to it alone. For those under him, he says his difficulty is that these keen and able specialists have not developed the faculty of clear, expository and controversial statement of their views and thoughts ; in a word, they are unskilled in English composition ; and thus, strong in their thoughts, they are weak in the presentation of them. Let me, then, press on all students, and from all points of view, the mastery of English letters.

And now I turn to that sad event which has left us homeless, which obliges us to meet to-day on a grassy floor, under a canvas roof, hard by those walls, "all roofless and storm-broken," which were at once our shelter and our pride. In a few short hours the stately pile we loved so much, round which so many pleasant memories clung, the principal home and seat of learning in this Dominion, the chief glory of this city, was left the ruin we deplore. The authorities of the University were called to deal on the instant with questions of the greatest moment. Early the next morning the able and devoted President, the most active figure during the conflagration, had assembled the Faculty, and, by the kindly co-operation of kindred institutions, was enabled to arrange for the uninterrupted prosecution of the work of the University.

And here I must be your organ in expressing our warm and cordial thanks for the outbreak of sympathy, the offers of assistance, and the liberal acts of sister institutions, of educational, literary, and political organisations, including the neighbouring Province of Quebec, and of friends of Canada and lovers of letters in the old world and the adjoining Union. We have been pleasantly reminded that the republic of letters recognises no narrow or political lines of demarcation; but that she, at any rate, aspires in her domain to realise "the brotherhood of man, the federation of the world."

It became the duty of the Trustees, of the Senate, and of Convocation at once to grapple with the serious problems involved in the repair of our losses, and to strive to prevent any permanent damage to our work.

It was the general voice that the exterior features of the old pile should be substantially reproduced. To the best use and necessary remodelling of the interior much time and thought have been devoted. The aim has been to secure, having regard to modern views and methods and to the lessons of our own experience, the accommodation needed for our existing numbers, with reasonable space for proximate development. A general plan has been devised, so remodelling the interior as to give us an increased number of lecture rooms of various suitable sizes, with professorial rooms and needed apartments for the students of each sex, and the officials of the University. This plan devotes the old Library and Museum to the purposes of examination halls and occasional lectures, and the space of the old Convocation Hall to general educational objects such as I have described. Special care is being given to questions of heating, lighting, and ventilation, all defective in the old building, and difficult to perfect within its lines, but susceptible of great improvement. You will miss the rich ornamentation and elaborate carving of the interior. Economy demands this sacrifice in order that we may bring the cost of reconstruction within the estimate of \$250,000, which is provided for by the insurance of

\$90,000, and the legislative grant of \$160,000, freely given within a few days of the event, on the assurance that the authorities would look to private and municipal liberality for the large requirements beyond. In estimating these requirements we desire to regard economy on the one hand, and the needs of the University on the other.

What are the remaining requirements? They are four in number.

First the books. Our loss has been calculated, I believe, at \$150,000, of which \$50,000 is covered by insurance. The exertions of a committee of the Senate, and a committee of Convocation, of which Mr. Walter Barwick is the indefatigable secretary, aided by local committees of our Graduates, have resulted in substantial progress towards meeting the deficiency of \$100,000. The Canadian list has reached \$43,000, payable in instalments, and, of course, subject to shrinkage. It is very largely the offering of our graduates, aided liberally by friends. Various societies and distinguished friends of learning and of Canada, on this and the other side of the Atlantic, have come forward. A most influential committee has been formed in London on the initiation of Mr. Staveley Hill, and under the chairmanship of Lord Lorne. Several foreign Governments and the great Universities have liberally responded to our appeal. We have been given the advantage of free transport by sea and land, and are relieved from that most odious tax on knowledge, the book tax. Considerable contributions of books have been made by our graduates out of their scanty stores, as well as by others at home and abroad. It is impossible as yet even to conjecture the results already realized. The best guess I can make is to value all, including the subscription list, at \$70,000. Thus there would remain \$30,000 to be still provided in books or money in order to make good our loss in books. I hope this sum may be provided without delay; it would be matter for deep regret if we were obliged to recognize a permanent loss in the matter of our books.

Our next want is a home for these books ; and on this, as well as other points on which I am about to touch, you will understand that, no formal decisions having been taken, I speak for myself alone as to plans, opinions and advice, and that my estimates are only approximate. You will have already learned that the home is to be found elsewhere than in the old structure. We must then erect an isolated Library, which I should like to see on the east side of this lawn, near the ravine. This building, I hope, will be the heart, or rather the shrine in which shall be encased the heart, of the University. We have learned that the laboratory, the experiment, the work in the field, original and practical investigation by the student, are the keys that unlock the stores of knowledge in the departments of physics and the natural sciences. But we are only beginning to recognize to the full extent the fact that the main function of the professor, at any rate for the lovers of learning, in the belles-lettres and kindred departments, is, after all, very like that of the professor in those other branches. The library is his laboratory, and books are his tools and machines, and, in a sense, the subject of his experiments. His highest duty is to teach the student the use of books, to quicken the student's spirit, to point out his path, to remove his difficulties, to cultivate his love and his capacity for independent investigation. But I am trespassing on grounds on which it is, perhaps, dangerous for me to stray. Enough to say that I believe we shall soon find much more professorial work of this kind, and that there is even now a general recognition of the library as a laboratory. Then it should be so planned as to make its use general, easy and convenient ; it should be the central force, the hearthstone, the focal point, the "common room" for the intellectual repasts of the *élite* of the undergraduates. In its arrangement we should study the modern developments of the great, and even of the secondary universities of the Republic, and the systems they have introduced with such great advantage, in part original, but mainly borrowed from the German *Seminar* and the *cours pratiques* of France and Belgium. Under this plan the bulk of the books are concentrated on the stack system, in a fire proof room, of moderate size, but yet holding many thousands of

volumes, easily accessible and thoroughly catalogued. Attached to this book-room are a set of studies, or smaller libraries, devoted to the special use of classes or groups of students, who there carry on independent work under the guidance of their professor. Here, where are deposited books in actual use by the class, they meet, conduct enquiries, read essays and engage in discussions under the teacher's care, and here is done the best and most fruitful work in certain branches. Such a building with the requisite conversation-rooms and other appliances, avoiding all needless expenditure, will cost under \$60,000. And I place it first in the rank of our needs.

I place next in order of pressing importance the Gymnasium. It will be the physical centre, as the library will be the intellectual centre of our system. We want it for the health of the intellectual centre; the student cannot neglect his body without injuring his mind. For a great while its need has been felt; and our long winter months, when the means of exercise and recreation, close at hand and under shelter, are so important, render it to us no less than vital. A Gymnasium of moderate size and modern form, built with some regard to the elevation, and with the conveniences of a basement and a gallery, on a scale reckoned very humble in other universities elsewhere, would cost about \$25,000. A single storey shed, which would give one large floor space, but would be as ugly as sin, and as inconvenient, would cost about \$10,000. We ought to adopt the other plan, and if needs be, even to confer our degrees for a time in our Gymnasium.

And this brings me to the last item on my short list—a Convocation Hall, to be used on occasions like the present, and also for examination purposes, and for occasional academic gatherings. This is doubtless an important element in our university life. You may judge of its value when I remind you of the touching petition of our young graduates of this day, who asked that they might be laureated nowhere else than by the ruins of our ancient hall. Such a building would require a larger floor plan than the old one, which we had long outgrown; and, with a presentable elevation, conformable to the general style of our architecture, would cost, I fear \$60,000.

These three items of Library, Gymnasium and Convocation Hall I thus bring to \$145,000, to which if you add the deficiency on the books, you find a sum total to be provided of \$175,000.

Now, as to ways and means. We have a building subscription list of nearly \$60,000; the Quebec grant, so liberally given, is \$10,000; and there are gymnasium subscriptions of \$4,000; in all \$74,000, subject, of course, to some shrinkage, and which I call equal to near \$70,000. Then there is at least the possibility, I hope the probability, that the property holders of this city may vote the proposed by-law, the general result of which, I am told, is that it would improve our position by something under \$50,000, though costing the city greatly less than we gain. Should that by-law fail there will be a general deficiency of \$105,000. Should it succeed there will remain a general deficiency of \$55,000 to \$60,000.

Now, the Province has done its part; the graduates, not generally blessed or cursed with a superfluity of means, are doing theirs; and for what remains we have to look to the tangible sympathy of the wealthier citizens of this great corporation. What has been as yet subscribed has been mainly in considerable sums by a few individuals.

I am sure that no well-to-do man will think for a moment that the passage of the by-law should discharge him from his duty of subscribing. The by-law is a means of obtaining a mere trifle from each; it will cost even the richest but a few cents a year; it is nothing sensible even to the poor; it is nothing at all to the rich; and it leaves their privilege and their obligation—that high privilege and that clear obligation which inseparably accompany the possession of wealth—practically unfulfilled.

Why, look at McGill College in Montreal! Without any such stimulus to generosity, without any such urgent need as unhappily exists in our case, that university, in addition to

great benefactions in recent years, has within the last few months seen her condition improved by near a million of dollars in possession or immediate prospect. I rejoice at her good luck. It will enormously increase her efficiency. It will not merely advance materially the future of that English and Protestant portion of the Quebec population about whose welfare we are all so anxiously concerned; but it will make McGill largely the intellectual nursing mother for the Maritime Provinces, and even for Eastern Ontario.

I do not grudge her a single dollar. But may I hope for us some exhibition of a like spirit here in Toronto? We do not boast so many great fortunes; but we do boast a more widely diffused prosperity, a greater aggregate of accumulated wealth and an equally progressive and public-spirited population. Let us make good our boast! Many handsome fortunes have been made by Toronto men out of Toronto's prosperity during the last few years. I confidently appeal to them, I appeal to all, in this noble cause. I believe they will recognize their duty, and will feel it to be their pleasure too. I cannot believe that they will suffer this institution, no insignificant part of the elements which make Toronto what she is, to become a reproach instead of an ornament. No! Let me hope that, with your aid and sympathy, they may, the case being now set plainly before them, come freely and gladly forward, and so enable us at once to go on with our good work on all the indicated lines. Let no man call a halt! Let every man raise a helping hand! Soon may our first stone be raised; *Felix faustumque sit!* I trust that we shall ever be able justly to apply to this institution, as our national embodiment of the Spirit of Learning, those glorious words in which the Spirit of Freedom is personified by one of the great poets of our day:—

Her open eyes desire the truth;
 The wisdom of a thousand years
 Is in them. May perpetual youth
 Keep dry their light from tears;
 That her fair form may stand and shine,
 Make bright our days and light our dreams;
 Turning to scorn, with lips divine,
 The falsehood of extremes!

So may our noble university, our *alma mater*, rising from her sure foundation, "broad based upon the people's will," rear once again her stately form, fair and tall, pure and bright, majestic and benign; gleaming with the sacred jewels of learning; illumined by the holy light of truth; and conferring, through countless generations, unnumbered blessings on the land she serves.

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